COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Monday, the *11th March 1935.* / *27th Kumbhom 1110.*

The House met at half past eleven in the Town Hall, Ernakulam, with M. R Ry. P. Krishna Menon Avl., B. A., in the chair. Messrs. C. Barton Wright, K. G. Nayar, A. I. Mani and K. T. Mathew were absent.

Opening Statement by the President.

President.— Honourable Members of the Legislative Council, of course the first item of the programme is the opening statement by the President. But the permanent President is unable to be present here this morning and I cannot make any statement with regard to the various points that might have been dealt with by the permanent President. I am, of course, competent enough, no doubt, to welcome you all most heartily for this meeting of the Council. I need hardly point out that we have a most important and fairly long agenda to be gone through. I am sure the Hon'ble Members of both sides of the House will be pleased to extend to the Chair that help and co-operation which alone will enable him to carry on the agenda through. With these few observations we shall now pass on to the next item, Questions and Answers.

Questions and Answers.

License fees—Public Health Department.

252. Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) the names of villages from which license fees are collected up to 30th Vrischigam 1110, by the Department of Public Health;

(2) the amounts so collected under various heads such as coffee-clubs, hotels, etc, from those villages;

(3) the work done by the department in those villages?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(1) License fees are being collected from all the villages excluding those under the control of the municipalities.

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(2) No village-war classification of the amounts collected is done as it is practically impossible to do so.

(3) All items of work which have been entrusted to this department are being carried on in all the villages wherever found necessary. In general, the works include vaccination, prevention of epidemics, sanitary arrangements in connection with fairs and festivals, supervision of dangerous and offensive trades, administration of markets both Sirkar and private, cremation and burial grounds, improvements and additions to communications, water supply, child-welfare and maternity work, etc.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—May I know when they began to take action in Kunnamkulam against the spread of plague ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I am led to believe that they took immediate action after the disease was found out.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—May I know how many days after the first rat-fall ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I do not think there has been any appreciable delay. As soon as they received information from the doctors there, they took action.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—May I know the approximate number of days ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I do not think there has been any delay.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—May I know how the supervision of dangerous and offensive trades is done by the department ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Under the regulation they can inspect the places where such trade is conducted and insist that all sanitary conditions should be fulfilled.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—May I know who collects all these fees ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The fees are collected through the Sanitary Inspectors.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Has any of the Sanitary Inspectors visited any village for any purpose other than collecting the fees ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—They go there to carry out the various duties enumerated by way of answer to sub-division 3.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—May I know how was the supervision of dangerous and offensive trades done except by

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way of collecting the license fees. How are they really able to prevent it?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—They insist that all the sanitary conditions should be fulfilled. That is how these trades are supervised.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Are the places licensed regularly inspected?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—They are inspected as often as possible. I do not think there is any strict provision that they should inspect the places once in a quarter or a half year. They are inspected as often as possible.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—May I know whether any diary is maintained by these officers?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Yes; a diary is maintained by all executive officers.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—How many cremation and burial grounds have they provided?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Whenever a requisition comes up for a new cremation ground or a burial ground the question is referred to the Public Health Department. They also go and inspect the places to see whether it is objectionable to have it there from a sanitary point of view. If it is found objectionable to retain a cremation ground in a certain place or to open a fresh one at a particular spot they are also instructed that the sanitary laws should be carried out.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—May I take it that their work in this connection is to offer expert opinion?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—Yes; expert opinion also is taken.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—But may I know whether the department provides any cremation grounds or burial grounds?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—When the Government open a ground for particular communities, generally provision is made under this budget.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—With reference to sub-division 2 may I know the total amount collected under this head?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I want notice.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—May I know what is the work done by the department in the matter of child-welfare and maternity work?

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Rama Varmha Tampuran.—With regard to this scheme they are opening 3 maternity and child-welfare centres. The buildings are almost complete and they will open 3 or 4 more next year. A special provision has been made for that. In these maternity welfare centres they will train mid-wives, they will make provision for maternity cases and they will give instructions to mothers and all possible help will be given for child-welfare.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Has the department done anything except by way of providing the buildings ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The buildings have to be first constructed and on completion of that they will open their centres and work in right earnest will be started.

Donations and Subscriptions—1109.

253. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to give a date-war statement of account "Donations and Subscriptions" in 1109?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—A list is appended. *(Vide Appendix I).*

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know the principle guiding the Government in the matter of grant of these donations ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—There is only one principle involved and that is wherever, Government think, help is required, that is given.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know whether all sorts of requests that are placed before the Government will be granted or what exactly is the principle to decide whether A or B deserves it ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—All sorts of requests will not be granted and it is very difficult to define the exact principle because it is not one single item under which all these can be grouped.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Can the House know a few cases for which donation would be granted?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The Hon'ble Member can find them out from the list. These are the instances where the grants have been given.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—We find here various items of donations granted. Is there any principle or principles which guide the Government in the matter of these grants; for example, poverty ?

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